

REMARKS

In the Office Action of June 13, 2008, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,714,032 B1 (hereinafter “Reynick”). In addition, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reynick in view of U.S. Patent Number 7,109,558 B2 (hereinafter “Nakano et al.”)

In response, Applicants have canceled claim 4 and amended the independent claims 1 and 11 to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention from the cited reference of Reynick. As amended, the independent claim 1 recites in part “*ramping up a power supply being supplied to a circuit or component under test to apply a plurality of different DC power supply voltages to the circuit or component under test*” and the independent claim 11 recites in part “*means for ramping up a power supply being supplied to a circuit or component under test to apply applying a plurality of different DC power supply voltages to the circuit or component under test.*” Support for these claim amendments can be found at least in Figs. 1 and 4, and on page 5, lines 28-32, of the current application. Applicants respectfully assert that the amended independent claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by the cited reference of Reynick, as explained below. In view of the claim amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of pending claims 1-3 and 5-12.

A. Patentability of Amended Independent Claims 1 and 11

The amended independent claim 1 recites “*ramping up a power supply being supplied to a circuit or component under test to apply a plurality of different DC power supply voltages to the circuit or component under test,*” which is not disclosed in the cited reference of Reynick. Thus, the amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference of Reynick. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended independent claim 1 be allowed.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The cited reference of Reynick discloses a method for testing integrated circuits that includes in part applying a set of vectors to a set of experimental ICs and formulating a threshold base current signature for the experimental ICs, as described in column 7, lines 50-52. However, the cited reference of Reynick fails to disclose ramping up a power supply being supplied to the experimental ICs to apply the set of vectors. Thus, the cited reference of Reynick does not disclose “*ramping up a power supply being supplied to a circuit or component under test to apply a plurality of different DC power supply voltages to the circuit or component under test,*” as recited in the amended independent claim 1. Since the cited reference of Reynick does not disclose each claimed element, the amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference of Reynick. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amended independent claim 1 be allowed.

The above remarks are also applicable to the amended independent claim 11, which recites similar limitations as those of the amended independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the amended independent claim 11 is also not anticipated by the cited reference of Reynick, and request that this amended independent claim be allowed as well.

B. Patentability of Dependent Claims 2, 3, 5-10 and 12

Each of the dependent claims 2, 3, 5-10 and 12 depends on the amended independent claim 1. As such, these dependent claims include all the limitations of the amended independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that these dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the amended independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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